

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC2708

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS NAHA310

E.O. 11652. N/A

TAGS. ETRD, EIND, JA, US

SUBJ. TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE. POTENTIAL CASE INVESTIGATION-

PIKNIK PRODUCTS CO.

REF. STATE 196821

1. INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA 4 REFTEL FOLLOWS.

A) IDENTITY OF JAPANESE TESTING FIRMS. (1) OSAKA BRANCH OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HYGENIC SCIENCES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE. OFFICIAL STATUS SANCTIONED BY ARTICLE 18 OF THE FOOD SANITATION LAW (ACT NO. 233 OF 12/24/47). (2) OKINAWA PREFECTURAL PUBLIC HYGIENE RESEARCH CENTER. ESTABLISHED BY OKINAWA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE 18 OF THE FOOD SANITATION LAW.

B) STANDARDS AND TESTS FOR SORBIC ACID. JAPANESE TEXT OF

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PERTINENT ARTICLES (6,7,11,16,18) OF FOOD SANITATION LAW BEING POUCHED TO DOC. RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF SORBIC ACID AS A FOOD PRESERVATIVE ARE DESCRIBED IN NOTIFICATION NO. 370 OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE. NOTIFICATION PROHIBITS USE OF SORBIC ACID AS PRESERVATIVE EXCEPT IN SPECIFIED CASES AND AMOUNTS. EXAMPLES ARE CATSUP .5 GRAMS/KILOGRAM. PICKLES 1.5 G/KG, JAM .5 G/KG. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT SORBIC ACID IS PROHIBITED IN ALL OTHER PRODUCTS NOT SO SPECIFIED.

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C) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HYGENIC SCIENCES OSAKA DID QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS BY GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY. OKINAWA RESEARCH CENTER DID QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS BY ULTRAVIOLET ABSORPTION SPECTRUM METHOD.

D) OSAKA NATIONAL INSTITUTE TEST RESULTS DATED APRIL 11 SHOWED 0.219 G/KG OF SORBIC ACID. OKINAWA RESEARCH CENTER TEST RESULTS DATED JUNE 30 SHOWED 0.1715 G/KG SORBIC ACID. (TEST RESULTS BEING

POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES). THERE IS NO ACCEPTABLE LEVEL FOR SORBIC ACID IN SALAD DRESSING.

2. THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND MAY BE HELPFUL IN DETERMINING PROPER DISPOSITION OF PIKNIK CASE. WHEN 200 CASES OF THE SALAD DRESSING ARRIVED MARCH 19 LOCAL OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY

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OF HEALTH AND WELFARE NOTED THAT THE LABEL CONTAINED NO PRESERVATIVES ALTHOUGH JAPANESE LAW REQUIRES THAT ALL PRESERVATIVE INGREDIENTS BE LISTED ON THE LABEL. JENSEN SHOKAI (CONSIGNEE) THEN ASKED FAIRCO TO PROVIDE USG CERTIFICATION OF PRESERVATIVE INGREDIENTS.

FAIRCO IN RETURN PROVIDED A LETTER (DTD 6/6/78) FROM MCMILLAN LANE, COMMISSIONER OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANDD INDUSTRIES, STATING THAT NO EVIDENCE OF THE USE OF SORBIC ACID WAS OBSERVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF PIKNIK SALAD DRESSING. THIS LETTER WAS FOUND UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT DID NOT REFLECT SPECIFIC TEST DATA. IN THE MEANTIME SAMPLES WERE SENT TO THE TWO CITED GOJ OFFICES FOR TESTING.

3. REQUEST NAHA BE PROMPTLY INFORMED OF CONTEMPLATED ACTION BY TFC. IF SALAD DRESSING CANNOT BE INTRODUCED INTO JAPAN AGENT INTENDS TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE SALES TO US MILITARY PURCHASER RATHER THAN RETURNING SHIPMENT TO US.

4. CONSIGNEE HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO RETURN SHIPMENT SAMPLE TO FAIRCO.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: ETRD, EIND, JA, US, PIKNIK PRODUCTS CO
To: STATE TOKYO
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